

Remarks

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-27 are pending in the Application.

Claims 5-24 were indicated allowable over the prior art if written in an independent form.

The Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Claims 1-4 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe (US 4,434,359).

The Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of original claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6-27 are now allowable. Claim 2 has been amended to include subject matter from original claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 13, and 14. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that claims 2-5 are also allowable. It follows that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully traverse the claim rejections. For example, Watanabe is silent regarding the area adjacent the card insertion port (6). Watanabe does not teach or suggest a vertically extending projection extending on a fascia portion and *partially* spanning the transverse width of a card reader slot.

Nevertheless, claims have been amended to advance prosecution. The amendment of a claim shall not constitute an admission that the amended claim was unpatentable in any manner. Applicants reserve all rights to file another application (e.g., a divisional application) relating to any claim.

Conclusion

The undersigned is willing to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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